



Marc Elrich, County Executive
Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrator Officer

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**A message from Montgomery County Government
on the Federal Government Shutdown**

If you are a federal employee and have been furloughed as a result of the federal shutdown, you may file your claim online using the [Federal Civilian Employee Application for Benefits](#) or you may file a claim by calling 410-853-1700 or contact an unemployment insurance [claim center](#).

**Manna Food Center Announces a Temporary Waiver on Income Requirements for
Montgomery County Residents Impacted by the Federal Government Shutdown**

Increased Need for Food Assistance Anticipated as Shutdown Enters Third Week

Manna Food Center (Manna) is temporarily waiving income requirements to provide food to any Montgomery County resident impacted by the Federal Government Shutdown. Residents are encouraged to contact Manna as soon as possible to begin receiving food through regular distribution channels.

Montgomery County residents can request food assistance by contacting Manna at 301-424-1130. Participants will be provided with approximately 60 pounds of food every 30 days. Manna offers several food pickup locations on specific days during the week and every Monday thru Friday at Manna's warehouse (9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877).

Manna's CEO Jackie DeCarlo notes that County agencies, elected officials, and non-profits are stepping up to meet the growing financial need. Manna's Community Food Rescue program is one of several groups providing food for Councilmember Tom Hucker's community potluck being held tonight. Multiple food runners will be picking up food from area restaurants to deliver to the potluck.

Residents interested in supporting Manna's extended services should visit www.mannafood.org for volunteer or giving opportunities.

The 439th session of the Maryland General Assembly Gaveled in on January 9th at noon

Review the County's Legislative Priorities for 2019 General Assembly at
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIR/Resources/Files/2019/state-priorities_2019.pdf

**Public Forum on the
OPERATING BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2020**
(July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020)
Monday, January 14 7:00pm-8:30pm
at BlackRock Center for the Arts
12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown

(the snow date is Thursday, January 31)



County Executive Marc Elrich is holding a series of public forums to get comments and suggestions that will be considered as he develops his Recommended Operating Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 (also referred to as FY2020). The fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30, and the new budget will become effective on July 1, 2019.

Mr. Elrich will announce his Recommended Operating Budget on March 15 and will then send it to the County Council for their approval. The Council will hold public hearings to get additional public comments and will follow up with work sessions within the various Council committees. The County Council approves the operating budget at the end of May.

Here are the additional forums that will be held in the other regions of the county:

- [Wednesday, Jan. 16 – 7 p.m.](#) – Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring.
- [Tuesday, Jan. 22 – 7 p.m.](#) – Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.
- [Wednesday, Jan. 23 – 7 p.m.](#) – Mid-County Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring.
- [Monday, Feb. 4 – 7 p.m.](#) – Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East West Hwy, Bethesda.

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, call 240-777-6507, Maryland Relay 711 or email a request to Karen.falcon@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Join Montgomery County's conversation about the FY20 Operating Budget on social media and help raise awareness by using #MoCoBudget20.

RideOn adds new bus service from Clarksburg to Germantown MARC Station; additional service now between Gaither Road and Shady Grove Metro Station

Montgomery County RideOn began new service from Clarksburg to the Germantown MARC Station on January 6. RideOn Route 75 will now provide service to the Germantown MARC Station during peak periods.

RideOn Route 75 now makes stops at the Germantown MARC Station from the Germantown Transit Center via Germantown Road (MD 118) during rush hours. It also provides new service along Sycamore Farm Drive and Seneca Meadows Parkway. [View the new route and timetable.](#)

Also note that **Route 63X Gaither Road** now provides additional service between Gaither Road & Gaither Drive and the Shady Grove Metro Station to augment Route 63 trips on weekdays. Service is now available from approximately 6:20am until 8:30pm. [See Route 63X details \(PDF\)](#) This additional service will especially help veterans traveling to the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) on Gaither Drive. The clinic gives 45,000 veterans in and around Montgomery County increased access to vital health services.

County Steps Up Inspections of Multi-Family Apartments

County Executive Marc Elrich has directed the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) to extend its inspection at The Enclave Silver Spring to include every apartment. In September 2018, DHCA inspected 262 apartments, or 23 percent of all units. Beginning today, DHCA will inspect the remaining 857 apartments at the complex, which includes 1,119 units.

The surge inspection at The Enclave Silver Spring is part of DHCA's implementation of [Bill 19-15](#), a tenant protection measure that calls for stepped-up inspections of multifamily apartments. Bill 19-15 requires a two-year intensive inspection program to be completed by July 1, 2019. This program is underway and will identify troubled properties. Thus far, of the 689 applicable multifamily rental properties in Montgomery County, 590 properties, or 86 percent, have been inspected or are set to be inspected soon. Altogether, over 21,000 units have been inspected under Bill 19-15's two-year "inspection surge."

During inspections of each multifamily apartment building, DHCA issues notices of violations or citations, as appropriate, and inspects again until corrected. As warranted, DHCA may inspect every unit at a property.

DHCA is creating an inventory of multifamily apartment buildings and the status of each to identify those that require extra attention to remain in compliance. A "Troubled Properties" list will be published as soon as County Council approves the regulation. That list will include multifamily apartment buildings with multiple housing code violations which are required to develop a corrective action plan; such properties will be inspected annually.

As part of this renewed effort, DHCA has relaunched the "[Renters Have Rights](#)" outreach campaign, whereby renters are encouraged to contact DHCA to learn about their rights and DHCA remains available to help mediate conflicts between renters and landlords. The campaign directs people to call 3-1-1, which would enable residents to file anonymous complaints and learn how Montgomery County can provide free, confidential help to ensure housing safety, mediate conflicts, and otherwise advocate for tenants.

Metro Restores Free Customer Parking on Saturdays

In response to customer feedback, Metro will eliminate Saturday parking fees for Metrorail customers beginning this weekend. A \$2 fee had been implemented last February as part of a pilot program.

Riders who use Metrorail will park for free on Saturday, with the exception of designated regional or special events. During large-scale regional events such as Fourth of July, a Presidential Inauguration, marches or other events that draw large crowds Metro may still charge for parking on weekends or federal holidays under a new policy approved by Metro's Board of Directors effective this year.

Weekday parking fees and hours implemented during the pilot period will become permanent. This includes a reduced \$3 parking rate at the West Falls Church and Landover Metrorail stations to encourage ridership.

Parking fees will be collected during the following hours:

- Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
- Friday 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.

Individuals who park at Metro facilities but do not use the Metrorail system are charged a higher "non-rider fee" (ranging from \$8.70-\$10) at the following stations: Branch Ave, Greenbelt, Suitland, Huntington, Dunn Loring, Minnesota Ave, New Carrollton, Franconia-Springfield, Largo Town Center, Rhode Island Ave, Rockville, Twinbrook and White Flint. Metro may expand the use of "non-rider fees" in the future.

Metro is also planning to introduce new payment technology options such as mobile apps or online reservation systems to further improve customers' parking experience.



Montgomery County Ceremony Honors Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Monday, January 21 3:30pm
The Music Center at Strathmore
5301 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda

Montgomery County's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) celebration will highlight the life and legacy of Dr. King Jr. through music arts, dance and performance. "Women of the Dream" is the theme for this year's event, which showcases the tireless efforts and struggle of Coretta Scott King; Fannie Lou Hamer; Willie Pearl Mackey King; Reverend Dr. Ruby Reese Moore and Joan Trumpauer Mulholland.

One of the event's highlights will be a special performance by jazz violinist Chelsey Green, who is an international recording artist. A visual arts exhibit prepared by Montgomery County students interpreting the "Women of the Dream" theme will be displayed at the venue.

Free tickets are required to attend and will be distributed onsite the day of the event beginning at 2:30pm. Tickets are first-come, first-served and everyone in line will receive a general admission ticket until the venue is filled. Come early to get the best seating. The line begins in the foyer of the Music Center at Strathmore, starting near the café. Patrons may enter on the third floor near the skybridge. Seating will begin at 3:00pm.

More information is available on the [website](#).

Holiday Schedule for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, January 21st
https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=22690

Montgomery County Recreation to Host Free Summer Camp Fair on Jan. 26

It may be cold outside, but now is the time to start planning summer for your kids. Montgomery County Recreation will host a free Summer Camp Fair on Saturday, January 26, from 12:00noon to 3:00pm at the Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center, which is located at 13850 Travilah Road in Rockville.

The Summer Camp Fair is designed to assist families looking for summer camp opportunities for their children. Parents will have an opportunity to meet with recreation camp staff and instructors, ask questions, participate in demonstrations and register children for camp. Information on financial aid also will be available.

Read more at https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=22708

Montgomery County Council President Navarro schedules Council work on County Executive Elrich's proposed savings plan to enable vote by end of January

Montgomery County Council President Navarro said that the Council will act conscientiously and quickly to address the \$46.5 million savings plan proposal it received on January 7 from County Executive Marc Elrich. The savings plan would reduce spending in the current fiscal year (FY2019) operating budget, to better prepare the County for FY2020. Without the savings plan, it is anticipated that the County could face a budget gap exceeding \$105 million in FY2020.

Council committee meetings to review the savings plan recommendations will start on Jan. 15 with the Education and Culture Committee, continue with the Health and Human Services Committee and Public Safety Committee meetings on Jan. 17 and the Transportation and Environment Committee meeting on Jan. 22., and conclude with the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee and Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee meetings on Jan. 24. This meeting schedule could enable a final Council vote by Jan. 29.

As the Council reviews the savings plan, it could recommend restoring some of the proposed reductions or make new recommendations not currently contained in the plan.

The proposed savings plan targets \$16.8 million in reductions for County government operations; \$1.8 million for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; \$25 million for Montgomery County Public Schools; and \$2.8 million for Montgomery College.

For more information about upcoming Council and committee meetings visit:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/>

Radon Testing During 'Radon Action Month' Encouraged for Montgomery County Residents to Check for Possible Cancer-Causing Gas in Their Homes

Montgomery County is joining a nationwide effort in January to encourage homeowners to learn the dangers of radon gas. "Radon Action Month" focuses on how to check for the presence of radon gas and what steps can be taken to make homes safer if the gas is detected.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, radon is responsible for thousands of lung cancer deaths each year. It is the second-leading cause of lung cancer and the No. 1 cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. January can be an effective time to test homes for radon because windows and doors are closed tightly. Testing is most effective when test kits are placed, in accordance with the test kit instructions, in the lowest occupied level of a building since radon enters through cracks and other openings in the foundation. Radon tests are different from carbon monoxide and home smoke detectors.

Find out more at https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=22702

Kickoff of Library Lovers Month
February 2 11:00am
Gaithersburg Library



Cosponsored by Montgomery County Public Libraries and Friends of the Library-Montgomery County Chapter, and Friends of the Library-Gaithersburg Chapter

Visit www.folmc.org for more information.

County Executive Seeks Applicants for Boards & Commissions

The application deadline for those noted below is January 28, 2019.

County Executive Marc Elrich is committed to representation on all of the County's boards, committees, and commissions that is reflective of, and responsive to, our County's residents. Public participation contributes to the work of County government and provides an important service to the community when a variety of issues, concerns, and viewpoints are presented. Currently, there is a valuable opportunity to serve on the following:

- **Animal Matters Hearing Board**
- **Commission on Common Ownership Communities**
- **Historic Preservation Commission**
- **Sign Review Board**

Please Note that the BCC Application Process is Online!!!

For details and instructions for applying, visit <https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/BCCpublic/Default.aspx>

Informational Forum on Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control

**Wednesday, February 6 6:30pm – 8:30pm
The Universities at Shady Grove, Building II
(Bethesda/Gaithersburg Room)
9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville**

This is an opportunity for the community to hear about the purpose, role and structure of the Department of Liquor Control (DLC), current and future initiatives planned, and policies and resources for local craft distributors. Presenters will include Councilmember Craig Rice and DLC Director Bob Dorfman, as well as Kathie Durbin, Chief of Licensure, Regulation and Education, and Kent Massie, Chief of Retail Operations. If you have any questions, contact Councilmember Rice's office at 240-777-7955 or councilmember.rice@montgomerycountymd.gov.

For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

For other news and meeting agendas, visit:

County Council <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council>

Planning Board http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/departments/news_releases

Also check out the latest from:

Department of Public Libraries <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

Department of Recreation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec>

Department of Transportation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html>

Department of Environmental Protection <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep>

Department of Permitting Services [montgomerycountymd.gov/permittingservices](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/permittingservices)

Montgomery County Volunteer Center <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>

Office of Community Partnerships <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships>

Commission for Women <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw>

Parks Department <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/>

Planning Department <http://montgomeryplanning.org/>

Department of Health and Human Services www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs